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BROOKSVILLE MAN GETS 3 1/2 YEARS FOR IDENTITY THEFT

_____ Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that U.S. District Judge Steven D. Merryday yesterday sentenced Charles Wesley Dupree, (age 46, of Brooksville) to 42 months in federal prison for theft of government monies, making false claims, and identity theft. The court also entered a money judgment against Dupree for \$34,757.80 and ordered Dupree to pay \$93,549.74 in restitution. Dupree had pleaded guilty on April 14, 2009.

According to court documents, beginning in 1988, Dupree began fraudulently using the identity of Kenneth Bailey, a resident of Neptune, New Jersey, reportedly after finding a wallet that Bailey had lost while vacationing in Florida.

Between 1988 and 1991, both Dupree and the real Kenneth Bailey posted earnings under Bailey's Social Security Number. The real Bailey eventually discovered the identity theft and applied for a new social security number, which he received in 1992.

In 2005, Dupree submitted an application for disability benefits as "Kenneth Bailey," using the real Bailey's original Social Security Number. Dupree was awarded benefits as "Bailey," and Social Security Checks issued to Dupree based on both Dupree's earnings as "Bailey" and earnings that the real Bailey had posted under his original Social Security

number. Dupree received approximately \$93,549.74 in disability benefits while posing as Kenneth Bailey--\$34,757.80 more than he would have been entitled to based on his own income had he truthfully reported it.

This case was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.